

Sample Questions

Fire Investigator

Jan 2012

1. Which NFPA document is used by fire investigators to conduct fire investigations?
 - a. NFPA 1031
 - b. NFPA 921
 - c. NFPA 912
 - d. NFPA 1500
2. Testing the hypothesis can be accomplished by using all of the following EXCEPT:
 - a. the parenthesis process.
 - b. deductive reasoning.
 - c. cognitive testing.
 - d. lab analysis.
3. Investigative findings are initially reviewed by all of the following EXCEPT:
 - a. investigator's supervisors.
 - b. legal disposition.
 - c. technical review.
 - d. peer review.
4. Preconceived determination or premature conclusions as to the cause or origin of the fire are considered:
 - a. proactive.
 - b. preemptive.
 - c. expectation bias.
 - d. experience bias.
5. The process of heating a solid so as to cause the material to decay and produce fire gases is known as:
 - a. pyrolysis.
 - b. oxidation.
 - c. vaporization.
 - d. combustion.
6. The lowest temperature at which a liquid produces a flammable vapor is known as the:
 - a. fire point.
 - b. thermal point.
 - c. flash point.
 - d. flame point.
7. A compartment fire that has reached full room involvement is also known as:
 - a. flashover.
 - b. backdraft.
 - c. overburn.
 - d. complete involvement.

8. The *neutral plane* in a compartment fire refers to the:
 - a. surface area above the fuel where fire is seen.
 - b. line where the flow of the hot gas and cooler air changes.
 - c. space at floor level that is not involved in the burning process.
 - d. transition point between rollover and flashover.
9. The observable or measurable changes in or on a material as a result of exposure to fire are known as:
 - a. fire patterns.
 - b. fire effects.
 - c. flame patterns.
 - d. exposure effects.
10. The chipping or pitting of concrete or masonry surfaces that also might include areas of different coloration is known as:
 - a. charring.
 - b. spalling.
 - c. oxidation.
 - d. calcinations.
11. Patterns produced during the _____ stage are primarily influenced by the ignition source and fuel.
 - a. steady burn
 - b. flashover
 - c. decay
 - d. ignition
12. Which type of burn pattern is often created from a short-lived fire or one that involved a fuel package of low heat release?
 - a. U-shaped
 - b. Circular shaped
 - c. Inverted cone
 - d. Hourglass
13. What percentage of the modern codes is related to fire protection?
 - a. 30%
 - b. 40%
 - c. 50%
 - d. 60%
14. Which one of the following types of construction is used in a majority of modern wood-frame construction?
 - a. Balloon frame
 - b. Post and frame
 - c. Plank and beam
 - d. Platform frame

15. The most useful measurement in working with post fire circuits is the measurement of:
 - a. current.
 - b. resistance.
 - c. amps.
 - d. ohms.
16. What is the color of conductor used in grounding equipment?
 - a. Green
 - b. Gray
 - c. Black
 - d. White
17. A storage container with the water capacity of 800 lbs (363 kg) used to store LPG is a:
 - a. cylinder.
 - b. tank.
 - c. carboy.
 - d. drum.
18. Research has shown that notification of an emergency in a building is most effective by:
 - a. flashing lights.
 - b. lights and horns.
 - c. illuminated exits.
 - d. voice or directive messages.
19. Fires set near or around homes or at educational institutions are typical of which category of youth firesetters?
 - a. Child
 - b. Adolescent
 - c. Preadolescent
 - d. Juvenile
20. Which amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects property owners from unwarranted or unlawful searches of their property?
 - a. Fifth
 - b. Fourth
 - c. First
 - d. Tenth
21. Once a fire has been classified as incendiary, the next step is to:
 - a. identify the fire setter and motive.
 - b. collect evidence at the scene.
 - c. notify the city/county attorney.
 - d. contact the police to make an arrest.

22. A wall collapsing onto a floor in a building that has been damaged by fire is considered a/an _____ load.
- a. live
 - b. dead
 - c. collapse
 - d. impact
23. When a court has approved a bankruptcy it is recorded in the county's:
- a. recorder's office.
 - b. clerk's office.
 - c. assessor's office.
 - d. treasurer's office.
24. The _____ is the exact physical location where the fire started.
- a. room of origin
 - b. ignition point
 - c. point of origin
 - d. starting point
25. Which of the following classifications of fire cause has a deficiency of data?
- a. Accidental
 - b. Natural
 - c. Incendiary
 - d. Undetermined